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state, big sky
12-11-79

UM HAS FIVE FINALISTS FOR
HEAD FOOTBALL COACHING JOB

MISSOULA--

The University of Montana has announced it has five finalists for the head football coaching job.

The five are:

- Dick Beechner, an assistant coach at Missouri.
- Larry Donovan, linebacker coach at Kansas.
- Doug Kay, defensive line coach at UCLA.
- Don Read, head coach at Oregon Tech.
- Bobby Roper, linebacer coach at Tennessee.

UM President Richard C. Bowers said interviews of the candidates are currently underway, and that the University hopes to announce the new coach some time in the near future.

Beechner, 46, has been an assistant under Warren Powers since Powers coached at Washington State. He is a graduate of Nebraska, where he was a graduate assistant. He coached high school football in Nebraska for six years, then moved on to Hiram Scott University in Nebraska. He is currently an assistant under Powers at Missouri.

Donovan, 38, is another Nebraska graduate. He was an assistant under Joe Salem at South Dakota, served as an assistant to Jim Sweeney at Washington State, and also coached at Iowa. He is in his first year at Kansas. He has served as both a defensive and offensive coach during his career.

Kay, 43, coached in the prep ranks in Illinois, was a graduate assistant at Indiana State, and then moved to Olivet College in Michigan, where his teams went 35-8-1. He has also coached at San Jose State (offensive coordinator), and moved on to UCLA, where he has been linebacker and defensive line coach. He was an All-American

(over)

UM HAS FINALISTS--add one

at Western Illinois, and played pro football for a short time.

Read, 44, coached at the University of Oregon, then moved on to Oregon Tech, where he is now head coach. Prior to the OTU job he coached at Humbolt State in California, then moved on to Portland State. In his first year at PSU he was 7-4, while the team the year before was 0-10. He became an assistant at Oregon in 1971, and then became head coach (four seasons). His career record is 81-63-1.

Roper, 36, has been with head coach Johnny Majors since Majors was at Iowa State in 1972. He was a player on a national championship team at Arkansas, and worked for Bear Bryant at Alabama for two years. He has also coached at Wichita State, the Citadel and Virginia.

Roper was the defensive coordinator at Pittsburgh in 1976, when the Panthers went 12-0 and won the national title. He has served as the defensive coordinator at Tennessee, and is currently the linebacker coach there.

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